SEBASTOPOL, AT LAST, HAS FALLEN. The rumour which produced so much excitement and diffused such universal joy about eleven months ago, has been finally realized. The bombardment was renewed, for the fourth time since the commencement of the siege, on Thursday se'nnight, when the tremendous effect of the heavy guns, which with so much pains and labour have been conveyed to the front, was speedily apparent. The besieging force was now able to command positions which formerly were quite out of their range, was proved as by the conflagration of a line-of-battle ship in the harbour the same evening. On Friday the bombardment was still continued—another ship was observed to be in flames—a portion of the town was set on fire, and a magazine on the north side of the harbour was exploded. The superiority of the allied fire was now conclusively established, and the batteries of the Malakhoff were silenced. The time had evidently come for using the bayonet to complete the work. The period chosen was midday on Saturday, thus deviating from the ordinary course of commencing the assault at dawn, though it was that followed with so much success in storming the Mamelon. The object probably was to allow daylight sufficient for the storming parties to secure themselves within the entrenchments, should they succeed in the assault, while the continuance of the bombardment during the whole of the morning would leave the enemy no time to repair the damage thus effected. The assault was made accordingly on three different points —on the Malakhoff and on the Little Redan covering Careening Bay, by the French; and on the Great Redan by the British troops. On all three points the assaults were successful. The fortifications were carried with their accustomed bravery by the allied troops, and the enemy was driven from his positions. But though all three fortifications were carried, and the bravery of the allied army was so far equal, yet only one of them, the Malakhoff, could be permanently held. Fortunately that one was the most important, and secured the ultimate fall of all the rest. For the Malakhoff was so constructed as to afford protection to its holders, whoever they might be; while the crenellated walls of the Redan faced only to the assailants, and left them, after they had mastered the defences, exposed to a murderous fire from the batteries of the interior defences, of the ships in the harbour, and of the powerful reserves of the enemy. Against this combination of attack, which the soldiers could neither reach nor shelter themselves against, no troops could hold their ground; and it is no disgrace to the columns of either army that they were obliged to abandon the position they had so dearly won. Nor is it matter of surprise, though of deep regret, that in such a contest the casualties, as we learn from the latest despatch, have been very heavy. It appears further, that so soon as the French eagles were seen to float on the Malakhoff Tower, the French General de Salles gallantly assaulted the Central Bastion; but though the attack was renewed a second time, the attempt did not succeed, and the assailants were obliged to be withdrawn. These chequered fortunes of the fight were, however, summed up in the capture of the Malakhoff. Success on that point involved success everywhere else. From that time all further resistance was at an end, and the garrison thought only of retreat. Accordingly, on the night of Saturday the Garrison evacuated the south side of Sebastopol, breaking down the bridge behind them; having first sunk or burnt every vessel of war then in the harbour, with the exception of three small steamers, and having set fire to the town in several places, so as to render its possession of as little use to the Allies as possible. Intense excitement and enthusiasm pervaded the metropolis as the glorious news was diffused through the different districts. Groups were congregated in every corner greedily quaffing the intelligence and discussing its importance, joy beamed on every countenance. The aspect of the City was such as forcibly to remind us of the lines of Dryden on a somewhat different event:—

"Men met each other with exalted look,
Their steps were higher that they took;
Friends to congratulate their friends made haste,
And long-remembered foes saluted as they passed."

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Vienna Cabinet has already replied to the last circular of Count Nesselrode, the existence of which is now out of doubt. The communications which have taken place between Austria and Prussia give reason to believe that the German powers will end by agreeing upon a political programme which they will be able to oppose to the belligerent parties, who may be tempted to extend the war, beyond the object for which it was ostensibly undertaken.

The Prussian paper *Le Nord* of Brussels, says, if we may interpret in a pacific sense the returning activity of diplomatists, all hopes of arrangements of peace are not lost. M. De Boarquenny and Prince Gortschakoff spent the whole morning of the 13th in conference with Count Buol at Vienna.

The Vulture arrived at Dantzic on Friday night, says she is not so seriously injured as was at first supposed. There is no news of importance.

The weather is very bad. The fleets are healthy.

The captain of a French brig, who was wrecked near Odessa, and remained in that city until exchanged, has returned to Marseilles. He gives lamentable accounts of the general distress which prevails among the inhabitants of Odessa, and many hitherto opulent families, he says, are literally starving. The inhabitants are in constant apprehension of being bombarded. The town is mined.

Great Britain intends to call Naples to account, and will make a recent insult of the Neapolitan police to an attache of the British Embassy the ground work of a quarrel.

The Queen and family are at Balmoral.

General Sir George Brown has retired from the army.

Mr. Naysmith's wrought iron monster gun had proved a complete failure. The experiment of wrought iron ordnance is therefore abandoned.

Mr. Hincks, of the Canadian Legislature, is appointed Governor of Barbados. There are those who conceive that this appointment is in reward for his recruiting services in the United States.

Cholera is prevalent in many parts of Italy. So violent is the disease, especially at Cantaneo, in Sicily, that there is a regular panic. Every one is escaping into the open country or woods, and trade is completely stagnant.

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WARS HORRORS.—The *Cornwall* (English) *Gazette*, relates the following affecting incident:—

"A seaman of the fleet before Sebastopol, whose family lives at Polporro, in this county, was ordered on shore for the purpose of assisting in burying the slain who fell in a late attack of the Russians on the British batteries; and almost the first person he met with on landing, was one of his brothers, of whose presence in the fleet he was not before informed, and who had been severely wounded in the late engagement. From him he learned, that his two other brothers were also serving in the naval brigade on shore: he remained with the wounded brother, till he saw him expire, and then proceeded on the duty for which he had landed and soon discovered the bodies of his brothers, who had been killed in the battle. His feelings may be imagined, as he assisted in laying these three brothers of his own, side by side in one grave.

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THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.—Our readers will have heard, with mingled feelings of horror and disgust, that a renewed attempt has been made upon the life of our august ally, the Emperor of the French. The fell intent happily failed; and, if anything can diminish the mixed sentiment of alarm and scorn which such an act must necessarily create in the mind of every Englishman, it will be found in the fact that the would-be assassin proves to be a pure lunatic, or, as our French neighbours phrase it, "a dangerous maniac, impelled by a monomania for crime with a decided tendency to homicide in general, and a fixed idea that the Emperor was a victim specially destined to fall beneath his hand."

THE STORY OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

The name of the ship Sally will always be remembered as intimately associated with the invention of the electric telegraph. In the year 1832, during the passage of that vessel from Havre to New York, a company of American gentlemen were assembled on her deck, conversing upon various scientific subjects. Among them was Professor Morse, who was then pursuing the profession of an artist, and who was comparatively unknown, except to a large circle of friends to whom he had endeared himself by his frank, generous nature, and his simple, unaffected manners. There was also Mr. Reeves, United States Minister to the Court of France, and Dr. Jackson, a distinguished geologist. The conversation happened to turn on the then recent discovery of electricity produced from the magnet. Its importance aroused the attention of men of science in the Old and New Worlds, among whom it was the all absorbing subject of discussion. In the course of the conversation, Dr. Jackson stated that he had seen the experiment successfully performed, and described the coil of wire round the magnet; when one of the company observed that it must take a considerable length of time for a current of electricity to pass through it—"No," said the Doctor, in reply, "I have known the electric current to pass through several hundred feet of wire in an an instant. "Don't you," he added, "remember the experiment of Franklin, to exhibit its velocity, and which resulted in proving that the rapidity of its flight could not even be calculated by time? Professor Morse, who was an eager listener to this part of the conversation, remarked that he remembered an experiment of the kind, and he immediately after suggested that if electricity was so rapid, there could be little or no difficulty of devising a plan by which, through its aid, information can be transmitted to a great distance.

The remark was received with a sort of general assent, but did not turn the conversation from the experiment which Dr. Jackson had been describing, and which was the subject of general interest. The active mind of our Professor, however, was busy; and that night, the idea which he had conceived was worked out into a practical form. His leisure hours on board the Sally were devoted to the invention of an instrument, which was to prove the possibility of transmitting intelligence by means of electricity between distant points. The result was the construction of a machine similar to that now used, with the exception that instead of the spring, there was originally a simple permanent magnet.

It is sufficient to say, here, that he was satisfied with his success; but this was not all—it was merely the beginning of his labors—he had to contend against the scepticism of an unbelieving world, which had persecuted and tortured, even to death, some of the noblest sons of science for the faith that was in them.

After his arrival in New York he succeeded in making a perfect model of his machine, He accomplished this in his studio, in the University, where his time was diaided between his great work and the instruction of some pupils in the art of painting. This was in the fall of 1835, when the University was in process of completion. Among his pupils were the distinguished historical painter, Daniel Humington, and Mr. Loomis, another artist of much merit. Both these gentlemen acted as witnesses in the long and obstinately contested suit between Professor Morse and Mr. O'Rielly.

In 1837 a public exhibition of the invention was made in the University, the scene of his unremitting labors, before a large audience. A considerable number were attracted by mere curiosity—certainly not from their faith in the practicability of the invention. Little did they or the world imagine that one day, through its magic agency, the most distant parts of the earth would be brought together, and that the great ocean itself would present no obstacle to the establishment of immediate communication between the Old and New Worlds. A large number of persons we have said, were present, and witnessed the success of the experiment; it was conclusively proved, that intelligence could be transmitted as quick as thought through a wire ten miles long. A few months after this Professor Morse went to Washington, and in February of 1838 exhibited his machine to the President, his Cabinet, and a large assembly of the members of both houses. The subject was soon after brought before Congress, and an appropriation asked for to construct a telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore. Thirty thousand dollars, it was stated, would be sufficient for the purpose, and as the amount was so small, it was supposed it would be granted at once; but, like many other measures of public utility, it was nearly killed by delay. Large bodies, it is said, move slowly, and never was the axiom more forcibly illustrated than in this case. The Committee on Commerce, to which the subject had been referred, reporing promptly and favorably, recommended that an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars, the required amount, be granted for the construction of the proposed line. Week after week passed without any notice being taken of the report, month succeeded month, and still Congress took no action on it. Professor Morse, however, was not easily discouraged—he worked with untiring energy, in his studio at the University, for the means to support himself in Washington during the sessions of Congress, and in the midst of the greatest difficulties, the false promises of politicians, the indifference of pretended friends, and the delays and vexations of tedious legislation, labored with the most determined perseverance to secure the passage of the bill reported by the committee.

The first year passed, the second was near its close, and still there appeared to be no prospect that it would be acted upon. Professor Morse, during the interval between the sessions, went to England, having his invention here, and endeavored to obtain a patent from the British government. This application, however, was met and opposed by Wheatstone and Davy, and was defeated in consequence of their alleging that the invention had already been published, and that, according to English patent law, it was public property. Failing in England, he went to France where he succeeded in obtaining a patent, and where his invention was exhibited by the great French astronomer, Arago, qefore the Academy of Sciences. But although he was successful in securing the patent, when he attempted to construct a line from Paris to St. Germain, the government interposed, and claimed the exclusive right to the use of the invention, on the ground that it was a government monopoly, and that according to the laws of France, could not be possessed by an individual. Thus while there was one law requiring him to carry his invention into practical operation within two years, there was another which prohibited him from using it; and both being in conflict, he was compelled to abandon the design of using his patent in that country. He now returned to his native land, and proceeded immediately to Washington, where he renewed his endeavors to procure the passage of the bill granting the appropriation of thirty thousand dollars. Towards the close of the session of 1844, the House of Representatives took it up and passed it by a large majority, and it only remained for the action of the Senate. Its progress through this house, as might be supposed, was watched with the most intense anxiety by Professor Morse. There were only two days before the close of the session, and it was found on examination of the calendar, no less than one hundred and forty-three bills had precedence of it. Professor Morse had nearly reached the bottom of his purse, his hard earned savings were almost spent, and although he had struggled on with undying hope for many years, it is hardly to be wondered at, if he felt disheartened now. On the last night of the session he remained till nine o'clock, and then left without the slightest hope that the bill would be passed. He returned to his hotel, counted his money, and found that after paying his expenses to New York he whould have seventy-five cents left. That night he went to bed sad, but not without hope for the future, for through all his difficulties and trials that never forsook him. The next morning as he was going to breakfast, one of the waiters informed him, that a young lady was in the parlor waiting to see him. He went in immediately, and found that the young lady was Miss Ellsworth, daughter of the Commissioner of Patents, who had been his most steadfast friend while in Washington.

'I come,' said she, 'to congratulate you.'

'For what?' said Professfor Morse.,

'On the passage of your bill,' she replied.

'Oh, no—you must be mistaken,' said he. I remained in the Senate till a late hour last night, and there was no prospect of its being reached.'

'Am I the first then,' she exclaimed joyfully, 'to tell you?'

'Yes, if it is really so.'

'Well,' she continued, 'father remained till the adjournment, and heard it passed, and I asked him, if I might not run over and tell you.'

'Annie,' said the Professor, his emotion almost choking his utterance, 'Annie, the first message that is sent from Washington to Baltimore shall be sent from you.,

'Well, she replied, 'I will keep you to your word.'

While the line was in process of completion Professor Morse was in New York, and upon receiving intelligence, that it was in working order, he wrote to those in charge, telling them not to transmit any messages over it till his arrival. He then set out immediately for Washingon, and on reaching that city sent a note to Miss Ellsworth, informing her that he was now ready to fulfil his promise, and asked her what message he should send.

To this he received the following reply, "What hath God wrought?"—words that ought to be written in characters of living light. The message was twice repeated, and each time with the greatest success. As soon as the result of the experiment was made known, Governor Seymour of Connecticut, who is at present U. S. Minister to St. Petersburg, called upon Professor Morse and claimed the first message for his State, on the ground that Miss Ellsworth was a native of Hartford. We need scarcely add that his claim was admitted, and now engraved in letters of gold, it is displayed